

ER 82-6051/h

DCI/ICS 82-3812
4 February 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: [REDACTED]
Acting Director, Intelligence Community Staff

SUBJECT: Establishment of a Foreign Language Training
Committee [REDACTED]

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1. Action Requested: That you review the attached draft DCID establishing a Foreign Language Training Committee, and approve its circulation to the National Foreign Intelligence Council for their comments. (U)

2. Background:

a. In April 1976, Mr. William E. Colby, as DCI, approved the establishment of an Ad Hoc Task Force of Intelligence Community representatives under the chairmanship of a member of the IC Staff to investigate the Community's linguist problems and make appropriate recommendations to the DCI. During the intervening years, the Ad Hoc Task Force prepared for the DCI a study on Russian linguists in the Intelligence Community, acted as a forum for the preparation and coordination of replies to Congressional inquiries concerning the foreign language capabilities of the Intelligence Community, and reviewed initiatives proposed by Community members to improve their foreign language competence in order to insure that such initiatives neither duplicated nor conflicted with similar initiatives already undertaken or being proposed by other members of the Community. (U)

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b. During the past year, senior officials of the Community, the Congress, and the Administration, have expressed concern at the inadequacy of the foreign language competence in the Intelligence Community and the difficulty of recruiting, training, and retaining intelligence collectors, processors, and producers with adequate foreign language expertise. This problem was discussed by you with the Deputy Secretary of Defense, Mr. Carlucci, on 23 October 1981, and was an agenda item for a DCI breakfast meeting with Secretary Weinberger on 2 November 1981. As a result of those meetings, conversations were held by ☐ and members of the IC Staff with a representative of the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering (C³I) to discuss possible joint DCI-SecDef initiatives to emphasize national security and Intelligence Community support for major foreign language training and education programs, and to determine how the Community could act more effectively in improving its own foreign language competence. It was agreed that the first step should be the creation of a permanent Foreign Language Training Committee to replace the old Ad Hoc Task Force. ☐

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c. A draft DCID (Attachment 1) establishing such a Committee was developed by the IC Staff and has now received the coordination of the Dean of the School of Language Studies of the Foreign Service Institute and the Office of Intelligence and Research of the Department of State; the Director of the Intelligence Division of the FBI; and the Office of General Counsel, the Deputy Directorate for Administration, and the Office of External Affairs of CIA. ☐

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d. The Department of the Navy, in a memorandum for the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (C³I) of 21 December 1981 (Attachment 2), stated its preference for an Ad Hoc Committee, advisory in nature and similar to the DCI's Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel. While taking cognizance of the Navy's point of view, the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (C³I), Donald C. Latham, on 24 December 1981 (Attachment 3) expressed the view that "intelligence community foreign language issues in the context of total national programs is . . . significant enough to warrant a DCI Committee" and advised the Director of Naval Intelligence, Admiral Shapiro, that he was proceeding to seek "DepSecDef approval for the Committee as originally proposed, highlighting the Navy's comments for Mr. Carlucci's consideration." Mr. Carlucci, having received the concurrences of the Director/NSA, the Director/DIA, the Intelligence Chiefs of the Army, Air Force and Marine Corps, the Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower, Reserve Affairs, and Legislation), and the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), and having taken note of the Navy's position, acted upon Mr. Latham's recommendation and approved the draft DCID on 29 December 1981. ☐

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3. There is a general consensus among those who have been consulted that the creation of a permanent Committee on Foreign Language Training would be welcomed by those members of the Community most dependent upon foreign language skills to meet their operational and analytic responsibilities. Such a Committee would also enable the Community to speak with a unified voice in its dealings with other elements of the Executive Branch, with the Congress and with academia on foreign language-related matters of concern to the Community. Finally, the creation of a permanent Committee would underline the importance which you and the DCI attach to this question. In view of the fact that this is a new entity, I recommend that the draft be circulated to NFIC principals for comment. Walt Elder, who has been consulted in the drafting of the DCID, concurs in this recommendation. ☐

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4. Recommendation: That you approve the attached DCID for circulation to NFIC principals for comment. ☐

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Attachments (3)

1. Draft DCID
2. DNI Memorandum
3. DUSD(C³I) Memorandum

APPROVED:

/s/ B.R. Inman

5 FEB 1982

Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

Date

DISAPPROVED:

Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

Date

SUBJECT: Establishment of a Foreign Language Training Committee (U)

Distribution: DCI/ICS 82-3812

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Director of Central Intelligence Directive

Foreign Language Training Committee

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 102, the National Security Act of 1947, and Executive Order 12333, there is established a Foreign Language Training Committee.

1. Mission

The mission of the Foreign Language Training Committee is to serve as the focal point within the Intelligence Community, and between the Intelligence Community and other elements of the United States Government, for all matters dealing with recruitment, training, and retention of personnel with requisite foreign language expertise to serve the needs of the Community in the collection, processing and production of national foreign intelligence and counterintelligence.

2. Functions

Under the general guidance of the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, the Committee will:

a. Advise the DCI on the effectiveness of programs to recruit, train, and retain personnel with adequate foreign language competence for all elements of the Intelligence Community.

b. Recommend to the DCI new initiatives to be undertaken to ensure the continuing availability to the Intelligence Community of intelligence collectors, processors, and producers with the requisite foreign language competence.

c. Coordinate replies to all queries from Congressional committees concerning the Community's foreign language competence.

d. Represent the Intelligence Community's interests in programs sponsored by other U.S. Government agencies and departments outside the Intelligence Community to improve foreign language studies in the nation's schools and universities.

e. Ensure that approaches to the academic community for the training of Intelligence Community personnel in foreign languages are appropriately coordinated and, to the maximum degree possible, serve Community as well as individual Agency interests.

f. Perform such other tasks as the DCI or DDCI may direct.

3. Responsibilities of the Intelligence Community

Intelligence Community components will keep the committee chairman advised of initiatives designed to facilitate the recruitment, training, and retention of personnel with foreign language competence.

4. Composition and Organization

The committee chairman will be appointed by the Director of Central Intelligence.

The members of the committee will be representatives designated by the Intelligence Community principals.

With the approval of the DCI, the committee chairman may invite representatives of relevant U.S. Government entities with national security interests to participate as appropriate.

The committee will be supported by an Executive Secretariat.